

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 18906 061751Z

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ACTION L-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SP-02 SAJ-01 PM-03 CIAE-00

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R 061741Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6677

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, PFOR, ACLM, GR, GW, US

SUBJECT: FRG-GREEK AGREEMENT FOR SETTLEMENT OF WORLD
WAR I CLAIMS

REF: BONN'S 18531

1. FONOFF REP (RUMPF, LEGAL DIVISION) CALLED EMBASSY TODAY TO INQUIRE ABOUT STATUS OF US APPROVAL OF SUBJECT AGREEMENT. EMBOFF PASSED ON TO HIM INFORMATION CONTAINED IN STATE'S 258502. RUMPF INDICATED HE INCREASINGLY UNDER PRESSURE FROM GREEK GOVERNMENT. EMBOFF STATED MATTER REMAINS UNDER REVIEW IN DEPARTMENT WHICH AWARE OF GREEK AND FRG INTEREST IN EARLY APPROVAL.

2. LATER ON DECEMBER 6, UK EMBASSY LEGAL ADVISER CALLED TO STATE THAT HE NOW HAD INSTRUCTIONS FROM FONOFF INFORMALLY TO PASS WORD TO FRG FONOFF THAT UK EMBASSY HAS AUTHORITY TO APPROVE AGREEMENT ONCE ALL THREE STATES ARE READY TO DO SO. HE INDICATED THAT HE WAS ALSO SPEAKING FOR FRENCH EMBASSY IN THIS REGARD. FRENCH EMBASSY REP HAD DECEMBER 5 INFORMED EMBOFF THAT HE INSTRUCTED INFORM FONOFF FRENCH GOVERNMENT READY TO APPROVE AGREEMENT.

3. EMBASSY OFFICER SAID THAT STATE DEPARTMENT WAS
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PAGE 02 BONN 18906 061751Z

STILL EXAMINING QUESTIONS RAISED BY BRIEF FOR GREEK

CLAIMANTS' AMERICAN ATTORNEYS AND ASKED IF UK AND FRENCH EMBASSIES COULD WAIT WITH PASSING INFORMATION TO FRG FONOFF UNTIL DEPARTMENT MADE AWARE OF IMMINENCE OF THIS STEP. UK EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVE AGREED TO WAIT WITH PASSING OF THIS INFORMATION UNTIL LATTER PART OF WEEK BEGINNING DECEMBER 9.

4. UNLESS DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT THERE ARE SOUND LEGAL CLAIMS RAISED BY LAWYERS' BRIEF, AND THAT THEY FURNISH APPROPRIATE BASIS FOR DELAY IN US APPROVAL TO FRG/GREEK AGREEMENT, EMBASSY URGES THAT IT BE AUTHORIZED EARLY NEXT WEEK TO JOIN WITH UK AND FRENCH EMBASSIES IN APPROVING SUBJECT AGREEMENT. FURTHER DELAY IN US APPROVAL WILL MAKE CLEAR TO FRG AND GREEK GOVERNMENTS THAT USG IS ONLY GOVERNMENT NOT PREPARED TO APPROVE AGREEMENT. EMBASSY THEREFORE RECOMMENDS EARLY CONCLUSION OF PRESENT EXAMINATION WITH VIEW EITHER TO AUTHORIZATION FOR EMBASSY TO PROCEED WITH TRIPARTITE APPROVAL, OR EXPLANATION TO EMBASSY OF MERITS PERCEIVED IN THE BRIEF BY COUNSEL FOR AMERICAN ATTORNEYS OF CLAIMANTS, WITH PROPOSALS UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR RESOLUTION AND ESTIMATES WHEN U.S. APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT MIGHT BE FORTHCOMING.
CASH

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